



5 POLYNUCLEOTIDE ENCODING A GENE CONFERRING RESISTANCE  
TO BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS TOXINS

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RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of US provisional application having serial number 60/276,180 filed on March 15, 2001, and which is incorporated herein by reference.

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention is directed towards the occurrence and identification of pesticide tolerance of certain insects. The invention makes use of specific polynucleotide sequences associated with the onset of resistance to *Bacillus*  
25 *thuringiensis* toxins which are used as probes to monitor the presence of acquired insect resistance associated with transgenic crops. The specific polynucleotide sequences are also used to monitor changes in the frequencies of alleles which confer the resistance to the toxins.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) contains genes encoding insecticidal proteins. Bt proteins are toxic when ingested by susceptible insect larvae. The protein attacks the insect's midgut, causes cessation of feeding, and eventually kills the insect. Bt toxins have been produced as  
35 fermentation products of Bt cultures and used in spray formulations for crop

protection. Bt genes have also been used commercially to transform crop plants; these transgenic crop plants' cells then produce the insecticidal protein which attacks susceptible insects that attempt to feed on the plant.

The general mode of action of Bt toxins is well known in the art and is described for example by Rajamohan F, Lee MK, Dean DH (1998) *Progress in Nucleic Acid Research and Molecular Biology* 60: 1-27. The protein produced by the bacterium is usually a protoxin, which itself is not toxic until it is proteolytically cleaved by the insect's own proteases. The smaller protein resulting from proteolysis is the active toxin. This toxin diffuses through the peritrophic membrane to the midgut epithelium, where it binds to one or more sites in the membrane. This initial binding step may be reversible, but eventually the toxin becomes irreversibly bound to the membrane. A conformational change occurs in the toxin, whereby membrane-spanning alpha helices are inserted into the membrane, where they aggregate and form pores. These pores disrupt the normal osmotic balance of the epithelial cells. The cells swell and lyse, leading to destruction of the midgut epithelial cell layer and eventual death of the insect.

The initial binding step is believed to be necessary for toxin action; consequently there have been many studies on binding interactions of Bt toxins and components of the midgut, described for example by Pietrantonio PV and Gill SS (1996) in *Biology of the Insect Midgut*, Chapman & Hall, London, pp 345-372. Techniques used to study binding often start with the isolation of brush border membrane vesicles (BBMVs) from the microvillar portion of columnar epithelial cells. Binding to BBMVs in suspension can be measured using labeled toxin. Alternatively, proteins can be isolated from BBMVs, separated by denaturing electrophoresis conditions, transferred to membranes, and probed with toxin. In addition, histological sections of insect midguts can be prepared and binding of labeled toxin can be visualized using microscopy.

Binding of Bt toxins to specific insect proteins can also be measured. Several proteins that interact with Bt toxins are well known in the art. Aminopeptidases exist in many different forms in insect midguts, and many of them have been shown to bind Bt toxins (Knight PJK, Knowles BH, Ellar DJ (1995) *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 270 (30): 17765-17770; Gill SS,

- Cowles EA, Francis V (1995) *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 270 (45): 27277-27282; Luo K, Sangadala S, Masson L, Mazza A, Brousseau R, Adang MJ (1997) *Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* 27 (8-9): 735-743).
- Members of the cadherin superfamily have also been shown to bind Bt toxins
- 5 (Vadlamudi RK, Weber E, Ji IH, Ji TH, and Bulla LA (1995) *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 270: 5490-5494; and Nagamatsu Y, Koike T, Sasaki K, Yoshimoto A, Furukawa Y, (1999) *FEBS Letters* 460: 385-390). Phosphatase enzymes have also been implicated in Bt toxin binding (Sangadala S, Walters FS, English LH, Adang MJ, (1994) *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 269 (13):
- 10 10088-10092). TPP-75, an elastase-like serine protease, binds to certain Bt toxins and causes them to precipitate (Milne RE, Pang ASD, Kaplan H (1995) *Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* 25 (10): 1101-1114). BTR-270, a peptidoglycan, binds Cry1A toxins with high affinity (Valaitis AP, Jenkins JL, Lee MK, Dean DH, Garner KJ (2001) *Archives of Insect Biochemistry and*
- 15 *Physiology* 46 (4): 186-200). Bt toxins have also been shown to bind to nonprotein components of midgut epithelial membranes. Glycolipids from *Manduca sexta* have been shown to bind Cry1A toxins using an overlay technique (Garczynski SF and Adang MJ (2000) in *Entomopathogenic Bacteria: From Laboratory to Field Application*, Kluwer Academic Publishers,
- 20 pp 181-197). Neutral lipids are involved in Bt toxin binding to *Manduca sexta* brush border membranes (Sangadala S, Azadi P, Carlson R, Adang MJ (2001) *Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* 32 (1): 97-107). Neutral glycolipids, especially hexa- and tri-saccharylceramides, are implicated in Cry1A toxin binding in diamondback moth (Kumaraswami NS, Maruyama T,
- 25 Kurabe S, Kishimoto T, Mitsui T, Hori H, (2001) *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology B- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology* 129 (1): 173-183).

The relationship between binding targets for Bt-toxins and susceptibility or resistance to Bt is very complicated and not completely understood at the present time. Several hundred strains of *Bacillus thuringiensis* exist, with

30 considerable specificity toward various groups of insects. Co-evolution between the insects and Bt has resulted in specificity of the interaction between Bt-toxin and the membranes of insect gut cells. The Bt-toxin of a particular strain of *Bacillus thuringiensis* may bind to the gut of some insect larvae but not to others. Thus, the Bt-toxins may have a high specificity for a

small number of insect pest species while having no significant activity against beneficial insects, wildlife, or humans.

Plants transformed to carry Bt genes and express insecticidal proteins are known in the art and include potato, cotton, tomato, corn, tobacco, lettuce, and canola. Transformed plants are known in the art as reflected in US Patent Nos. 5,608,142; 5,495,071; 5,349,124; and 5,254,799, the specifications of which are incorporated in their entirety herein by reference. The use of genetically engineered plants is designed to reduce the use of broad spectrum insecticides.

There is concern that resistance may evolve to Bt toxins, whether they are applied to plants in spray formulations or the plants are genetically engineered to express them. The development of resistance to Bt-toxin expressing crops may also result in resistance to commercial formulations of fermented strains of Bt such as DPEL® (Abbott Laboratories).

Rapid, reliable methods for broad screening to distinguish and detect the development of Bt resistance in populations of insects are needed. Heretofore, all methods require living or fresh-frozen insect larvae or preparations derived from them. The simplest methods employ bioassays on living insects, in which survivorship or larval metabolic rates are determined over time following a diet containing a specified concentration of a Bt-toxin. One such bioassay based on reduced metabolic rates after exposure to low doses of toxin mixed into artificial diet is discussed in US Patent No. 6,060,039 to Roe *et al.* which is incorporated herein by reference. Other bioassays are based on survival after exposure to a single, high diagnostic dose of toxin (for example, Diaz-Gomez O, Rodriguez JC, Shelton AM, Lagunes-T A, Bujanos-M R, (2000) *Journal of Economic Entomology* 93 (3): 963-970).

In principle, these bioassay methods can detect resistance no matter what its biochemical or physiological mechanism is. However, they require living, healthy larvae for their use, which are not always available. A more severe limitation on these methods is that, depending on the frequency of resistance genes in the populations, millions of individuals may need to be tested to detect a single resistant larva. High-level resistance to Bt is usually recessive, which means that an insect must have two copies of the resistance

gene to be resistant. To a very good approximation, the frequency of such homozygous individuals is given by the square of the frequency of the resistance allele. For example, if the resistance allele frequency is one in a thousand, the frequency of homozygous resistant individuals is one in a million. In this example, more than a million larvae would need to be screened to detect resistance.

One solution to this problem is to develop methods for detecting the resistance genes directly. In the example just given, the frequency of heterozygous carriers of one copy of the resistance allele is  $2 \times 0.001 \times 0.999$  or approximately 2 in a thousand. When resistance is recessive, these individuals would not be identified by bioassay because the one resistance allele they carry is not enough to make them fully resistant. But a direct, DNA-based method for detecting the resistance allele would identify these individuals, and sample sizes on the order of a thousand, rather than a million, would suffice.

The main limitation to developing DNA-based methods for detecting resistance alleles is that, up to now, the identity of resistance-causing genes has been unknown. In spite of much work on Bt toxin mode of action, prior to the invention described herein there has not been a demonstration of which genes, when mutated, actually cause resistance. Accordingly, there is room for variation and improvement in the art of screening assays useful in detecting the presence of genes conferring Bt resistance in natural populations.

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#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is one aspect of one of the present inventions to provide a genetic probe to identify and monitor resistance for the Bt-toxin in target insect populations. One such insect pest is the tobacco budworm (*Heliothis virescens*) which is a major economic pest of cotton.

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It is yet another aspect of one of the present inventions to develop a DNA probe and assay protocol which distinguishes between the conditions of homozygotes and heterozygotes with respect to resistance to Bt in populations of *Heliothis virescens* and other insects.

It is yet another aspect of one of the present inventions to provide a

process and useful sequences in which nucleotide probes are used to monitor the presence of acquired insect resistance associated with a transgenic crop.

It is yet another aspect of one of the present inventions to provide a process and useful nucleotide sequences which are used to monitor  
5 population changes in the frequency of alleles which are associated with the resistance to Bt toxin.

These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following description and appended claims.

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### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A full and enabling disclosure of the present invention, including the best mode thereof, to one of ordinary skill in the art, is set forth more particularly in the remainder of the specification, including reference to the  
15 accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a QTL map of the Cry1Ac resistance trait on linkage group 9 of *Heliothis virescens*.

Figure 2 is a conceptual translation of HevCaLP (s1 allele and r1 allele) in alignment with BmBtR175 of *Bombyx mori* and BtR1 of *Manduca sexta*.

20 Figure 3 is a northern analysis of mRNA isolated from susceptible and resistant strains following probing with the gene sequences set forth herein.

Figure 4 sets forth the insertion point of the Hel-1 element in the r1 allele of HevCaLP.

Figure 5 shows the multi-copy occurrence of Hel-1 in genomic DNA of  
25 resistant and susceptible strains of *Heliothis virescens*.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEQUENCE LISTINGS

The accompanying sequence ID listings are identified below. The  
30 sequence listings appear following the claims and are incorporated herein by reference.

The first sequence 1 identifies SEQ ID NO: 1 which is the DNA sequence of the susceptible allele s1 of HevCaLP.

Sequence 2 is the protein sequence SEQ ID NO: 2 of a conceptual

translation of allele s1 as used in the protein alignment to *Bombyx* and *Manduca*.

Sequence 3 is the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 which is the resistant allele r1 of HevCaLP, including the Hel-1 insert and the duplicated target sequences.

Sequence 4 is the DNA insert identified as SEQ ID NO: 4 for the Hel-1 insert which does not include duplicated target sequences.

Sequence 5, having SEQ ID NO: 5, is a DNA sequence corresponding to the left LTR of the Hel-1 insert.

Sequence 6, having SEQ ID NO: 6, is a DNA sequence corresponding to the right LTR of the Hel-1 insert.

Sequence 7, having SEQ ID NO: 7, is a DNA sequence of primer F1 corresponding to bases 1982 to 2001 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

Sequence 8, having SEQ ID NO: 8, is a DNA sequence corresponding to primer R2 consisting of the reverse complement of bases 4322 to 4351 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

Sequence 9, having SEQ ID NO: 9, is a DNA sequence corresponding to primer R3 consisting of the reverse complement of bases 2029 to 2052 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Reference now will be made in detail to the embodiments of the invention, one or more examples of which are set forth below. Each example is provided by way of explanation of the invention, not limitation of the invention. In fact, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. For instance, features illustrated or described as part of one embodiment, can be used on another embodiment to yield a still further embodiment. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover such modifications and variations as come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents. Other objects, features, and aspects of the present invention are disclosed in the following detailed description. It is to be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the present discussion is a description of exemplary embodiments only and is not



intended as limiting the broader aspects of the present invention, which broader aspects are embodied in the exemplary constructions.

In describing the various figures herein, the same reference numbers are used throughout to describe the same material, apparatus or process pathway. To avoid redundancy, detailed descriptions of much of the apparatus once described in relation to a figure is not repeated in the descriptions of subsequent figures, although such apparatus or process is labeled with the same reference numbers.

Applicants' protocols and procedures may be found in reference to "Identification of a Gene Associated with Bt resistance in *Heliothis virescens*" which was published in Science, volume 293, pp 857-860, on August 3, 2001; and which is incorporated herein by reference.

A resistant strain of *Heliothis virescens* was previously developed in the laboratory by selection using artificial diet containing various concentrations of Bt toxin (Gould F, Anderson A, Reynolds A, Bumgarner L, Moar W (1995) *Journal of Economic Entomology* 88 (6): 1545-1559). The strain, named YHD2, is 10,000 fold more resistant to the toxin Cry1Ac and is conditioned in a large part by a single recessive gene named BtR-4 which is located in linkage group 9 of *H. virescens*. The initial localization of the resistance gene BtR-4 has been reported in the Applicants' prior publication (Heckel DG, Gahan LC, Gould F, Anderson A (1997) *Journal of Economic Entomology* 90: 75-86) and which is incorporated herein by reference.

Further localization of BtR-4 to a particular region of linkage group 9 was carried out using a total of 11 polymorphic markers spanning a length of 105 cM. The markers were scored on a segregating backcross family derived from YHD2 females crossed with susceptible males. The linkage group was scanned for quantitative trait loci (QTLs) conferring Bt resistance following the methods of Lander, ES and Botstein D (1989) *Genetics* 121: 185-193. A single, highly significant peak of the log-likelihood function indicated that the BtR-4 resistance gene is located between A14 and MPI as set forth in Fig. 1.

The cadherin superfamily was chosen as a candidate for BtR-4. Partially degenerate oligonucleotide primers Bmtp5 and Bmtp8 as shown in Table 1 were designed based on published sequence of the BtR175 gene from *Bombyx mori* (GenBank Accession No AB026260, described by

Nagamatsu Y, Toda S, Koike T, Miyoshi Y, Shigematsu S, Kogure M (1998) *Bioscience, Biotechnology and Biochemistry* 62 (4): 727-734). These primers were used in the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with cDNA prepared from midgut mRNA of larval *Heliothis virescens*. A PCR product of 334 basepairs  
5 designated Hvcad58 was amplified, cloned and sequenced using conventional methodology well-known to those skilled in the art. The sequence of Hvcad58 corresponds to bases 4279 to 4612 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Radiolabeled Hvcad58 was used to probe Southern filters made from additional segregating backcross families for further mapping on linkage  
10 group 9. Finer scale QTL mapping in this region using 268 backcross progeny yielded a single peak of the log-likelihood function directly above the map location of Hvcad58 (Fig. 1). The data clearly indicates that the gene containing Hvcad58 is a strong candidate for the BtR-4 resistance gene.

The Hvcad58 probe was used to screen midgut cDNA libraries made  
15 from resistant (YHD2) and susceptible strains of *Heliothis virescens*. Clones recovered from these libraries were sequenced and used to design additional primers to amplify the full-length coding sequence from susceptible cDNA. In addition to the cDNA methods, a five-prime RACE (rapid amplification of cDNA ends) technique was used to complete the full sequence.

20 The sequencing yielded one transcript (s1) cloned from a susceptible strain as given in SEQ ID NO: 1. Conceptual translation of this transcript produced a protein product (that we have named HevCaLP, *Heliothis virescens* cadherin-like protein) of 1732 amino acids as given in SEQ ID NO: 2. HevCaLP is 70% identical to the BtR175 protein, sharing a signal  
25 sequence at the amino terminus, 11 extra-cellular cadherin-type repeats, a non-cadherin proximal membrane region, a transmembrane region, and a highly conserved cytoplasmic domain at the carboxy terminus as shown in Fig. 2. It shows somewhat less similarity to the BT-R1 protein from *Manduca sexta*, as given in GenBank Accession No. AAB33758 and reported by  
30 Vadlamudi RK, Weber E, Ji IH, Ji TH, and Bulla LA (1995) *Journal of Biological Chemistry* 270: 5490-5494. The transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains are absent from that sequence of BT-R1.

Expression of the mRNA encoding HevCaLP in susceptible and resistant larval midguts was studied using northern analysis and sequencing

of clones from the resistant library. As shown in Fig. 3, susceptible larvae show a single transcript of 5.5 kb. YHD2 larvae show three transcripts. The sequence of the rarest (7.9 kb) is denoted as the r1 allele, and given as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3. It is similar to the susceptible transcript except for a 2.3 kb insert denoted as Hel-1 as given in the accompanying SEQ ID NO: 4. Hel-1 shows several hallmarks of the LTR-type retrotransposons. Hel-1 has an approximately 255 nucleotide long terminal repeat (LTR) sequence at both ends and an unrelated sequence in the middle. The left LTR sequence, LTRa, is given in SEQ ID NO: 5 and the right LTR sequence, LTRb, is given in SEQ ID NO: 6. Hel-1 is flanked by an 8-nt duplication of the host sequence ACACTGCC, as shown in Fig. 4. The transcript of intermediate abundance (4.4 kb) is an abbreviated form, truncated at the second LTR of Hel-1 by a poly-A tail. The third, highly abundant transcript (2.1 kb), is truncated at the first LTR of Hel-1 by a poly-A tail.

Because of an in-frame stop codon 30 bases into the first LTR of Hel-1, conceptual translation of the three different YHD2 transcripts produces the same truncated 622-aa protein (as shown in the translation of the r1 allele in Fig. 2). Multiple stop codons in all three reading frames of the LTR follow the initial stop codon, preventing translation of a larger protein containing the carboxy-terminus of HevCaLP. Thus, the predicted protein product of the YHD2 r1 allele (if one is produced) would possess the same signal sequence as HevCaLP (possibly directing its secretion into the midgut lumen) but no predicted transmembrane domain or toxin-binding region.

Genomic Southern blots probed with the LTR region of Hel-1 show that it occurs with a copy number of 10-15 in both YHD2 and susceptible insects (Fig. 5). Insertion of this Hel-1 element into the gene encoding HevCaLP has created the novel, knockout r1 allele which confers resistance when homozygous (present in two copies in an individual insect). This insertion event could have occurred in the laboratory during the Bt-resistance selection protocol that produced YHD2, or may already have been present in the field-collected founders of the selection line. Thus it is now evident that a DNA-based method for detecting Bt resistance in *Heliothis virescens* may be devised, based on detection of the specific insertion of the Hel-1 element into the gene encoding HevCaLP, producing the r1 allele.

To illustrate detection of the r1 allele, a PCR assay was designed using two primers flanking the insertion point (F1 and R2) and a third (R3) internal to the left LTR (Fig. 4). Primer F1 consists of bases 1982 to 2001 of SEQ ID NO: 3, 5' ATA CGA GCT GAC GAC ACG CTG GGA GA 3', primer R2 consists of the reverse complement of bases 4322 to 4351 of SEQ ID NO: 3, 5' TCT GAG CGT AGG AGG TGT GTT GTT GAT GTC 3', and primer R3 consists of the reverse complement of bases 2029 to 2052 of SEQ ID NO: 3, 5' GCG CGA TGT GAC AGT CCG GAA CAG 3'. Primers F1 and R3 produce a 71-bp band from the r1 allele. Primers F1 and R2 amplify a 99-bp band from s1 or other susceptible alleles lacking the Hel-1 insert. Heterozygotes produce both bands. This is a marked improvement on a conventional bioassay, which would not distinguish heterozygotes from homozygous susceptibles because the resistant allele is recessive. It also confirms that the resistant strain is fixed for the r1 allele, as all YHD2 individuals examined to date have the 71-bp band only. It will be evident to those skilled in the art that the detection method for the r1 allele is not limited to PCR with these specific primers, and that there are many other molecular methods of detecting the specific insertion of the Hel-1 element into the HevCaLP gene, based on the sequence information disclosed herein.

It is believed that the gene encoding HevCaLP is identical to BtR-4, the major resistance gene in YHD2. Recessivity of the resistant allele at BtR-4 is explained by Hel-1 inactivation of HevCaLP. HevCaLP functions as a "lethal target" of Bt-toxin, since two copies of the disrupted allele are required for 10,000-fold resistance. Heterozygotes still present a "lethal target" since they have one copy of the susceptible allele.

The normal physiological function of HevCaLP is unknown, although other members of the cadherin superfamily are involved in cell adhesion and signalling (T. Uemura (1998) *Cell* 93 (7): 1095-1098). Whatever its function, it is not essential for life, as YHD2 is viable and fertile under laboratory conditions, despite being a "natural knockout" strain for HevCaLP. Whether its absence confers a fitness disadvantage in the field has important implications for resistance management, and this question can now be addressed with the information developed here. Target-site resistance to other insecticides usually involves modification but not knockout of the target,

which is generally essential for life (e.g., acetylcholinesterase for organophosphates, sodium channel for pyrethroids, GABA receptor for cyclodienes) (French-Constant RH, Pittendrigh B, Vaughan A, Anthony N (1998) *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London Series B-Biological Sciences* 353 (1376): 1685-1693.). However, methoprene resistance in *Drosophila melanogaster* provides another example of resistance by gene inactivation (Wilson TG & Ashok M, (1998) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA* 95 (24): 14040-14044).

The present invention now makes possible the application of molecular methods to Bt-resistance monitoring. We previously estimated the frequency of YHD2-type resistant alleles in field populations of *Heliothis virescens* prior to widespread planting of transgenic Bt-cotton to be 0.002 (Gould F, Anderson A, Jones A, Sumerford D, Heckel DG, Lopez J, Micinski S, Leonard R, Laster M (1997) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA* 94 (8): 3519-3523). This labor-intensive, bioassay-based estimate was derived by testing progeny of more than 1,000 field-caught males mated to YHD2 females, for alleles which would confer resistance when heterozygous with r1. Our results now suggest that this estimate covers the entire class of HevCaLP knockouts regardless of the nature of the molecular lesion, as well as other mutants preventing any expressed HevCaLP from functioning as a toxic target. Development of efficient DNA-based methods to detect these other types of mutants at BtR4 should be a high priority and is now possible with the methods described herein.

Only by monitoring allele frequencies at resistance genes like BtR-4 will it be possible to verify that the high-dose/refuge resistance management strategy for Bt-cotton mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is actually working to keep resistance allele levels low. The present invention affords a new method of complying with EPA regulations which require monitoring resistance levels in *Heliothis virescens*. The present invention provides a nucleic acid probe that will specifically identify genes for resistance in field populations. Further, the probes and protocols set forth herein provide for a method of monitoring the population of homozygous and heterozygous resistant individuals in field populations.

Bt resistance in *Heliothis virescens* caused by other types of mutations

that inactivate the HevCaLP gene product may also be screened for using the information provided herein. Such methods may include obtaining portions of the gene or its homologues by cDNA cloning or the polymerase chain reaction, determining the DNA sequence by standard methods, and  
5 examining the sequence for the occurrence mutations that may include nucleotide substitution, insertions, or deletions. Such mutations may affect protein sequences encoded by the gene by causing amino acid substitutions, insertions, or deletions as well as incorrect intron splicing, premature chain termination due to nonsense mutations, or errors in the normal initiation or  
10 termination of the transcription or translation.

By way of example, DNA or RNA isolated from individual *Heliothis virescens* is used as the template for PCR using primers specifically designed from SEQ ID NO: 1. The PCR products are directly sequenced, or cloned and sequenced, using standard methods. The sequences are examined using  
15 commercially available computer programs well known in the art, such as the Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group package. Mutations, such as individual nucleotide substitutions, insertions, or deletions; or insertions or deletions of several nucleotides, are detected by comparison to SEQ ID NO: 1. Such mutations may alter the amino acid in the protein sequence, leading to  
20 reduced binding of Bt toxins to the HevCaLP gene product and thereby conferring resistance. Or such mutations may cause frameshifts or premature occurrence of stop codons, resulting in a truncated or absent protein that fails to bind to Bt toxins and thereby confers resistance.

In the course of this invention, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the  
25 present invention includes a nucleic acid that is at least about 85%, preferably at least about 90%, and still more preferably at least about 95%, and even more preferably at least about 99% identical to the sequence of the susceptible allele s1 of HevCaLP. Additionally, any isolated polynucleotide or naturally occurring polynucleotide that hybridizes to the sequence set forth in  
30 SEQ ID NO: 1 at 60°C in 1X SSC will have properties useful in carrying out the present invention.

Other embodiments of the present invention include isolated nucleic acid molecules that are at least about 85%, preferably at least about 90%, still more preferably at least about 95%, and even more preferably at least about

99%, identical to the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4.

Bt resistance in other insect species may also be screened for using the same approach. These species may contain one or more genes homologous to the *Heliothis virescens* HevCaLP gene, whose products interact with Bt toxins. Resistance in these other species can be detected by obtaining the sequence of those genes, designing PCR primers, and amplifying and sequencing DNA from individual insects collected from the field or reared in the laboratory. Examination of the sequence for inactivating mutations as described herein will detect Bt resistance in those species.

10 Representative sequences of HevCaLP homologues in other species and which may be used in the screening process described herein include the following:

- 1) *Manduca sexta* BT-R1, GenBank Accession No. I77078, US Patent No. 5693491 (SEQ ID NO: 1) and US Patent No. 6,007,981 (SEQ ID NO: 1);
- 15 2) *Bombyx mori* BtR175, GenBank Accession No. AB026260, described by Nagamatsu Y, Toda S, Koike T, Miyoshi Y, Shigematsu S, Kogure M (1998) Bioscience, Biotechnology and Biochemistry 62 (4): 727-734;
- 3) *Pectinophora gossypiella* BT-R2, GenBank Accession No. AX150183, Patent Application, International Publication No. WO01/34807 (SEQ ID NO: 20 1);
- 4) *Ostrinia nubilalis*, GenBank Accession No. AX147201, Patent application, International Publication No. WO 01/36639 (SEQ ID NO: 1);
- 5) *Helicoverpa zea*, GenBank Accession No. AX147203, Patent application, International Publication No. WO01/36639 (SEQ ID NO: 3);
- 25 6) *Spodoptera frugiperda*, GenBank Accession No. AX147205, Patent application, International Publication No. WO01/36639 (SEQ ID NO: 5); and
- 7) *Lymantria dispar* BTR-CAD, GenBank Accession No. AF317621.

The above identified sequences and the referenced publications are all incorporated herein by reference as is set forth in their entirety.

30 The current methodology includes detecting resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis* endotoxin in insect populations by screening for mutations that alter the structure or function of a protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2. For the purposes of screening protocols, it is believed that using the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 may include homologues and other species which

would display at least 60% similarity to the sequence set forth in SEQ. ID NO:

2. More preferably, the sequence similarity is at least about 75%, preferably at least about 80%, more preferably at least about 85%, even more preferably at least about 90%, still more preferably at least about 95%, and even more preferably at least about 99% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in  
5 SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

Several of the mutations in other species detected by this approach may not have an obvious effect of activating the HevCaLP homologue. In that case, evidence that the mutation confers resistance may be obtained by  
10 conducting a linkage analysis and mapping the gene as described herein for *Heliothis virescens*. For that purpose, a strain of the species of interest with the mutation is crossed with a wild-type strain, and the F1 hybrids are intercrossed or backcrossed to one of the parental strains. The F2 or backcross progeny are tested for resistance by any of the bioassay methods  
15 described previously and well known in the art, and DNA is isolated from each individual progeny. The DNA is analyzed for the presence of the mutation, using restriction fragment polymorphism analysis, allele-specific PCR, denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis, single-stranded conformation polymorphism, denaturing high-performance liquid chromatography, or any  
20 other mutation detection system well known in the art. Evidence that the mutation confers resistance is obtained from the correlation across progeny between presence of the mutation and presence of resistance.

A straightforward extension of this method of detecting Bt- resistance is to examine the DNA sequence of genes encoding other proteins that interact  
25 with Bt toxins, including but not limited to aminopeptidases, alkaline phosphatases, elastin-like serine proteases, and peptidoglycans.

All cited references, publications, and sequence listings set forth herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

These and other modifications and variations to the present invention  
30 may be practiced by those of ordinary skill in the art, without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. In addition, it should be understood that aspects of the various embodiments may be interchanged both in whole or in part. Furthermore, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the foregoing description is by way of example only, and is not



intended to limit the invention.

**Primers Used in Determining the Structure of BtR4, the Cadherin-like  
Polynucleotide in *Heliothis virescens***

Bmtp 5	5'- GTR CTG ACK CTT AAY ATC CAG CCC ACK GC -3'
Bmtp 8	5'- TAC GGG YAC RTT RTC SCG KAT GAA GTG KCC -3'
Hvtp05	5'- AGC CCA CTG CAT CTA TGC ACG GCA TGT TTG A -3'
Hvtp08	5'- CCT GAC TTC GGT CTG GTC GTC CCT GGC -3'
CGp1	5'- TGT GGA GTC AGC TTC CAT AGA GTC TTG TAT CAG CGT GTA -3'
CGnotp2	5'- GAT ACG CGG CCG CAG GTC AGC AGA GCT CTG TTG ATG GTG TCG AGG GTG GAG A -3'
T7p1	5'- TAA GTT GGG TAA CGC CAG GGT TTT CCC AGT CAC -3'
T7p2	5'- GGC CAG TGA ATT GTA ATA CGA CTC ACT ATA GGG CG -3'
T3p1	5'- GAT AAC AAT TTC ACA CAG GAA ACA GCT ATG ACC ATG -3'
T3p2	5'- GAA ATT AAC CAC CCT TAA AGG GAA CAA AAG CTG GAG -3'
CGp3	5'- GGC ACG TTT TTT TCC ACT GAC GGG GTC GTG CG -3'
CGnotp4	5'- GAT ACG CGG CCG CGG GCA GTC TGA GCG TAG GAG GTG TGT TGT TGA T -3'
RC36T4	5'- GAC GTG TGT TCG CCT GAT CCT AAC TAC T -3'
RC36cg5	5'- AGC CTC TTA AAT CCA TAG CGG TCT CCA G -3'
RC36cg5+	5'- CTG GAG ACC GCT ATG GAT TTA AGA -3'
SC3T6	5'- ATG TTC GAG GTG CTG TAC CTC ACC G -3'
SC3cg7	5'- ACA CGA ACA CAG GAT CGT GGA AGT T -3'
CGp5	5'- TGT ATC TTC TGG AAC TCC GGC ACT TCG AAG TC -3'
CGnotp6	5'- GAT ACG CGG CCG CAT GTG ATG GTT CTG CGT GCC GAC GAT GAA GGA CTG -3'
Sint1	5'- GCT AAG GAC CGG GAT ATT GAT GAT AGA GT -3'
Sint2	5'- CGT GCG GGG CAG TCT GAG AGT AG -3'
RUN11	5'- CAT ACA CGA CCG CAC GCG CAA CG -3'
RUN12	5'- TGA GCG CCG AGG TGC AGG TGT AGG -3'
Hvtp13	5'- CTG TAC ACA GCC GGC ATC TCC AC -3'
Hvtp14	5'- CTG GAA GTT GAG GGT CAG CAC TCC AGT -3'
Hvtp15	5'- AAC CGT CGT CTG GAA GCT CT -3'
Hvtp16	5'- TCT TCG ATG CCG ATC AGA TCC GAG TC -3'
Hvtp17	5'- GCG GCG CCG GGC ACC AAC AAG CA -3'
HvA11-RT	5'- AAT AGA TGC TCT TAC ATA ATA CGA GTA TCT TAC -3'
5'R5A4/8	5'- GAT ACG CGG CCG CGA GAA CTA TGA GAT GGC AGT CGA CGT GAG AAT A -3'
HvA11F1	5'- GAA CTA TGA GAT GGC AGT CGA CGT GAG AAT -3'
HvA11F3	5'- TTA ACT TTC GCG CAA GAT TGT TCC TAT ATG -3'
HvA11R2	5'- GAA CTC TGG GCT GAA GGG GGT AGC -3'
HvA11R4	5'- CCC GAA GTT RTT GTT ATG GTT TGC TAC TGA -3'
USTP01	5'- ATG GGC AAC GCA GTT AAC TAC CTG -3'
USTP02	5'- CAT CCT CGT GAC AAT CGA CGA TGC 3'
USTP03	5'- CAG ACA GAA CGA GCT CTT TGT GCA -3'
F771-5Ksp1	5'- GCC GTG CAG CAG TTC GAT GAG AAG -3'
F771-5Ksp2	5'- CTC CCA CTG TAT CAG TAG CCA TCA -3'
738-3.4Ksp1	5'- ACA ATC CTT CAG GGT TCG AGC CAT C -3'
738-3.4Ksp2	5'- GTA CAA GAG AAA ATC GCG CGT TGC GT -3'
738-3.4Ksp3	5'- CCT GAT CAA CTG GAA CGA TGA GCT G -3'
738-3.4Ksp4	5'- CCA AAG TCC ACG GGC GGT TGC GCA C -3'

TABLE 1

Primers Used in Determining the Structure of BtR4, the Cadherin-like  
Polynucleotide in *Heliothis virescens* (continued)

738-3.8sp6	5'- GTG TAA CGT AGT GTG CTC GTG TAA TGC -3'
738-C10sp8-	5'- CCG TCT GAA ACA TGT CGA AGT CAT -3'
TBR01	5'- GAG ACT AGC ACC TAC ACG GTC GCT -3'
TBR02	5'- TCC AAC GAG CTG TTC CTG CTG ACG -3'
CR9TBR	5'- CAC TGT TAC TGT CAA TGT TCG AGA -3'
LTR-Pr1	5'- CAC ACG TCA TCG TGC GCC CCA CCT AAG CTG -3'
LTR-Pr2	5'- CTG GCG CGA CCT CAT AGG CCG GCG CGA TGT -3'
LTR-1.9Ksp1	5'- CGA ATC AGC TGA TTC ATT GTC GCT -3'
LTR-1.9Ksp2	5'- GTA GTG TGT GAT GTG ATC CAG -3'
Rint-Fwd1	5'- ATA CGA GCT GAC GAC ACG CTG GGA GAG CC -3'
Rint-Rev2	5'- TCT GAG CGT AGG AGG TGT GTT GTT GAT GTC -3'
C36RESEQ-F	5'- CCC GGC ACC GAC AAC TCC -3'
C36RESEQ-R	5'- CTC CAT GGT CGT ATG CCT TGA CAT GTA -3'
pc11Fa	5'- GAG ATG GCA GTC GAC GTG AGA ATA CTG A -3'
pc12Fa	5'- CCC GTT TCG CCG TGT TCA GGA ATG TC -3'
pc12Ra	5'- TGG TAC CTC GGT AGT TAA GCC TGG CAA T -3'
pc13Fa	5'- GAA CAC GGC GAA ACG GGC ACC ACA GA -3'
pc13Ra	5'- TGC CAG GCT TAA CTA CCG AGG TAC CA -3'
pc14Fa	5'- AAC CCG CTG CAT TTG TTT AGA GTT ACA G -3'
pc14Ra	5'- CGA ACT GCT GCA CGG CGA AGA TCT CCA T -3'
pc15Ra	5'- TTC CTT CCA CGT CAT TGT CGC CAT ATT T -3'
RintS-F1	5'- ATA CGA GCT GAC GAC ACG CTG GGA GA -3'
RintS-R2	5'- TCT GAG CGT AGG AGG TGT GTT GTT GAT GTC -3'
RintR-R3	5'- GCG CGA TGT GAC AGT CCG GAA CAG -3'
RintR-F4	5'- ACG CGC AAC GCG CGA TCT ACT CTT -3'

TABLE 1

## THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9.
2. A nucleotide sequence having at least an 85% identity of one of the sequences set forth in Claim 1.
3. An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
4. Any isolated polynucleotide or naturally occurring polynucleotide that hybridizes the sequence in Claim 1 at 60°C in 1X SSC.
5. An isolated polynucleotide encoding an allele of a gene which when homozygous confers resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis* endotoxin comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.
6. A nucleotide sequence having at least an 85% identity to the sequence set forth in Claim 5.
7. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a mobile genetic element capable of being inserted into the genomic DNA of insects, comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.
8. A nucleotide sequence having at least an 85% identity to the sequence set forth in Claim 7.
9. The complement of any of the sequences set forth in Claim 1.
10. A method of detecting resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis* endotoxin in *Heliothis virescens* populations by screening for the presence of mutations having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 4.
11. A method of detecting resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis* endotoxin in insect populations by screening for mutations that alter the structure or function of any protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
12. A method of detecting resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis* endotoxin in insect populations by screening for mutations that alter the structure or function of any protein having at least a 60% similarity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. A method for detecting mutations in genes from insect populations by screening for the presence of insertions of a DNA sequence set forth in Claim 8.
14. A process for monitoring Bt resistance associated with the presence of an r1 allele in an insect population associated with transgenic crops comprising the steps of:
  - obtaining DNA from an individual insect;
  - amplifying said DNA using primers having nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, and SEQ ID NO: 9.
  - measuring the molecular size of said amplified DNA, thereby determining whether said individual is a susceptible, a heterozygote, or a homozygote for said r1 allele.
15. A process for determining Bt resistance in an insect species containing one or more genes homologous to the HevCaLP gene comprising the steps of:
  - identifying a first gene encoding a cadherin-like protein;
  - identifying a second gene, said second gene a mutant of said first gene, said mutant gene associated with Bt resistance;
  - producing a set of primers for PCR amplification of a sample of DNA containing either one of said first gene or said second gene, said set of primers having at least one individual primer unique for a mutated portion of said second gene;
  - amplifying DNA from an insect using said set of primers;
  - separating said amplified DNA according to size;
  - determining from said separated DNA whether said individual insect is a homozygote, a heterozygote, or a susceptible individual with respect to said mutant gene.

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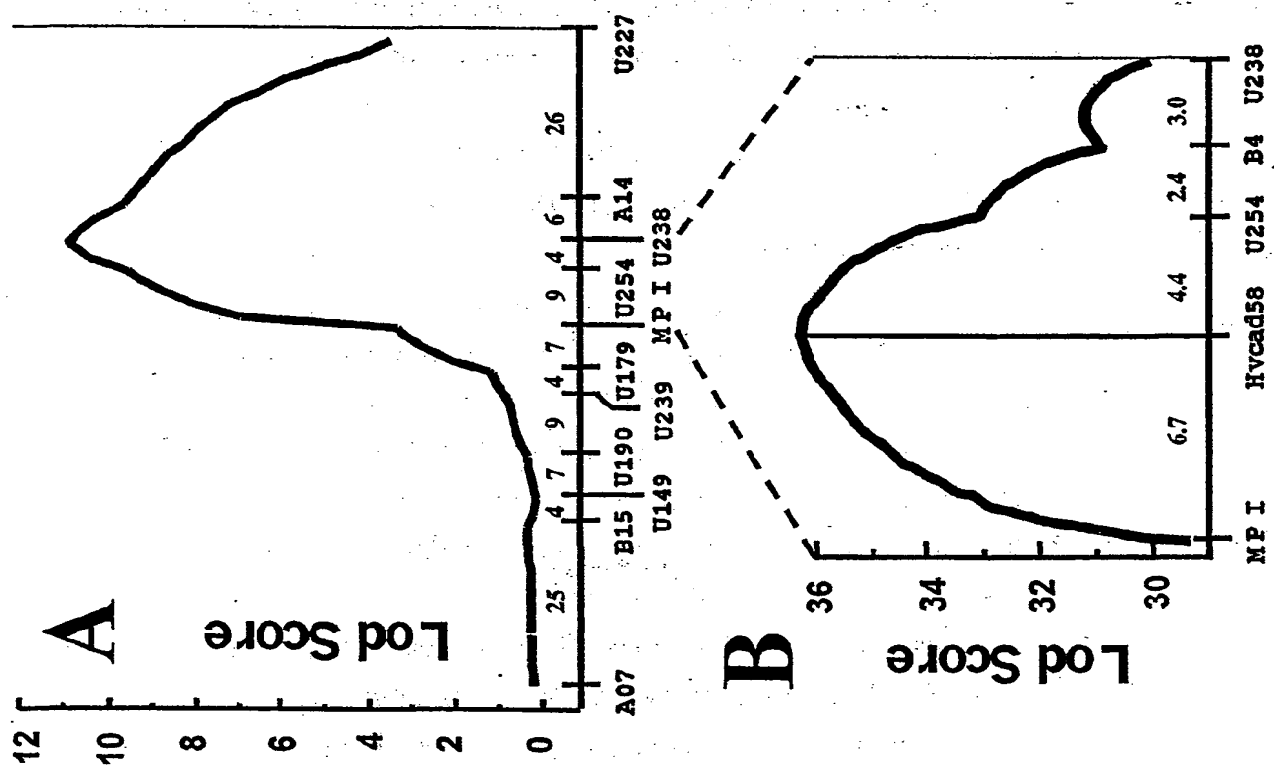


Fig. 1

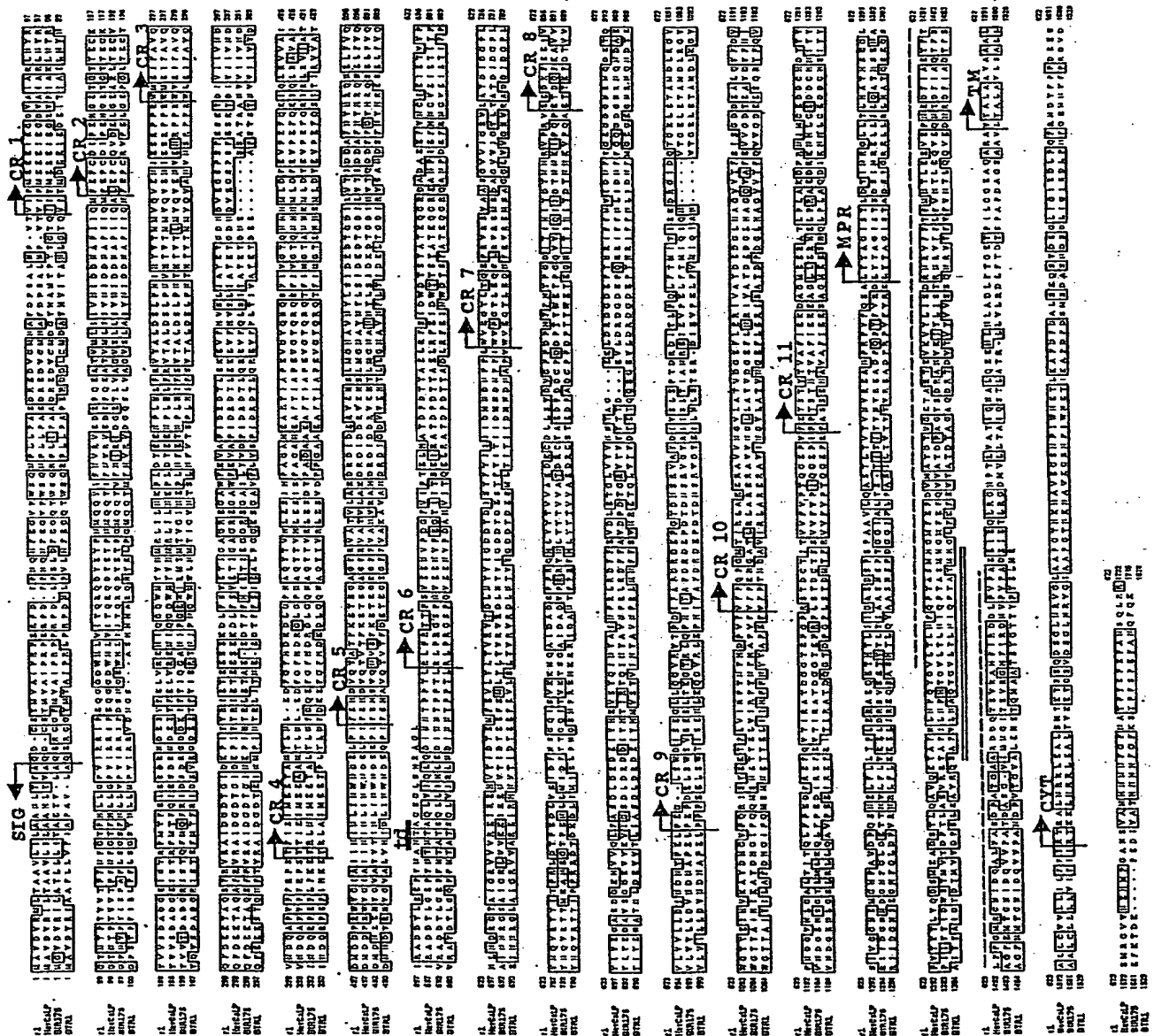


Fig. 2

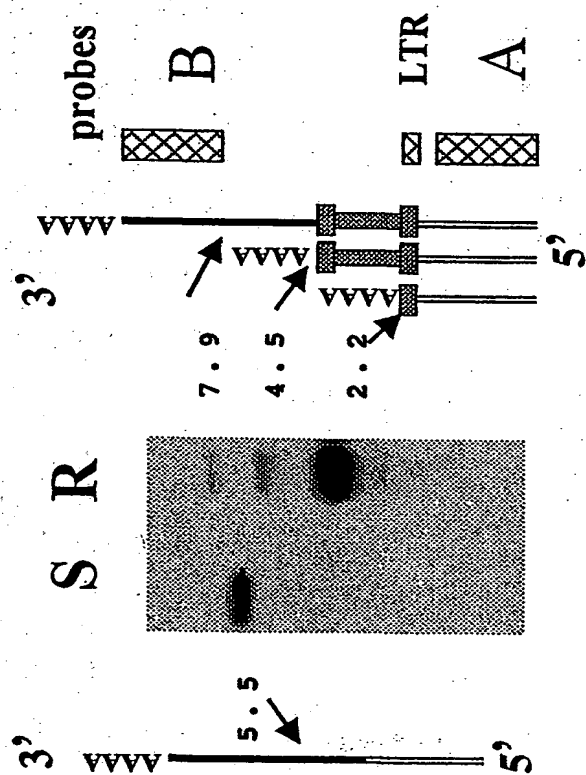
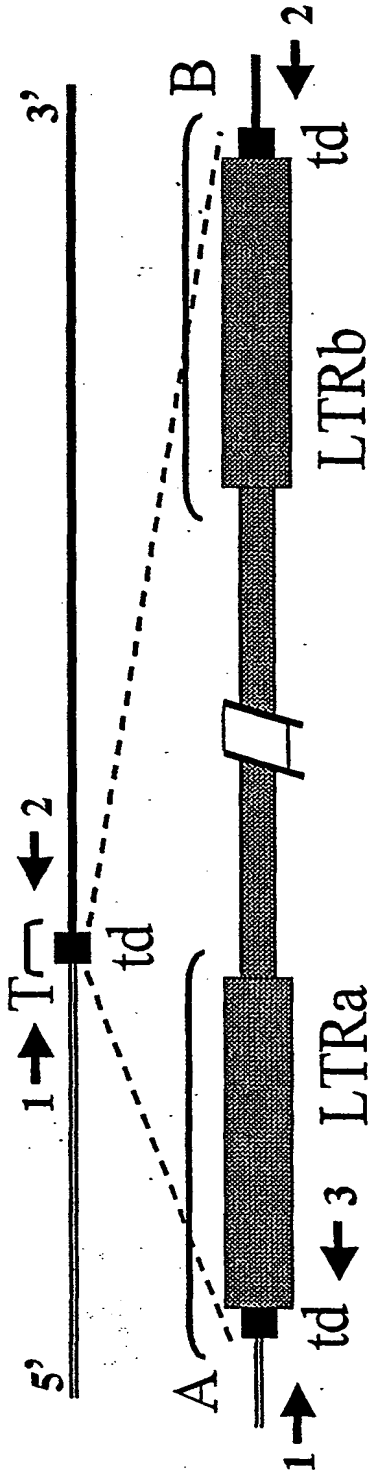


Fig. 3





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GCTGGGC  
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gtttcaacccggggaatatgtttccggactgttcacatcgccggccgacctatgaggtcggcgacacacacgtcatctgtggccccccacctaagctg  
GGC  
|||||  
CCTCACCATA CGCCGGACCCCGGACACTCGCTCAGCGACCCCGGTCCGCGCATACAGACCGCACGGGCAACGGCGGATTTCTCTTG  
T-ACATP-CTT  
|||||  
CCTCACCATA CGCCGGACCCCGGACACTCGCTCATCGACCCCGGTCCGCGCATACAGACCGCACGGGCAACGGCGGATCTACTCTTG  
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CAATA CAGTCTTCT—  
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|||||  
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Y N T N T A Q L V

Fig. 4

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S R

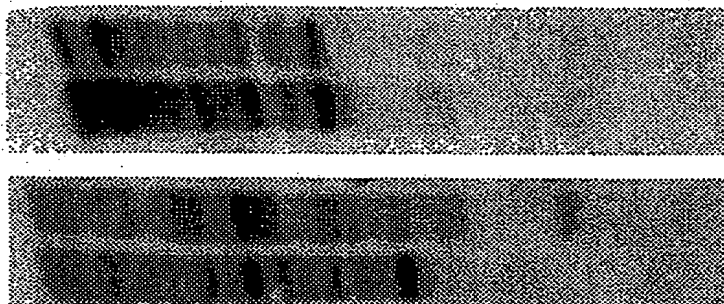


Fig. 5

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## SEQUENCE LISTING&lt;110&gt; Clemson University&lt;120&gt;

Polynucleotide encoding a gene conferring resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis* toxins<130> CXU-352-PCT<160> 9 <170> PatentIn version 3.1<210> 1<211> 5355<212> DNA<213> *Heliothis virescens*<220><221> CDS<222> (10)..(5208)<223>

<300><301> Linda J. Gahan and David G. Heckel<302> Identification of a gene associated with Bt resistance in *Heliothis virescens*<303> Science<304> 293<305> 5531<306> 857-860<307> 2001-08-03<308> GenBank AF367362<309> 2001-08-12<313> (1)..(5355)<300><308> GenBank AF367362<309> 2001-08-12<313> (1)..(5355)<400> 1

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Leu Ala Ala His Leu Thr Val Ala Gln Asp Cys Ser Tyr Met Val Ala  
15 20 25 30

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Ile Pro Arg Pro Glu Arg Pro Asp Phe Pro Asn Gln Asn Phe Glu Gly  
35 40 45

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Val Pro Trp Ser Gln Asn Pro Leu Leu Pro Ala Glu Asp Arg Glu Asp  
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Val Cys Met Asn Ala Phe Asp Pro Ser Ala Leu Asn Pro Val Thr Val  
65 70 75

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Ile Phe Met Glu Glu Glu Ile Glu Gly Asp Val Ala Ile Ala Arg Leu  
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Asn Tyr Arg Gly Thr Asn Thr Pro Thr Val Val Thr Pro Phe Asn Phe  
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Gln Glu Ala Thr Val Met Leu Ile Ile Val Asn Ile Asp Asp Asn Ala  
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Glu	Glu	Tyr	Phe	Glu	Leu	Val	Arg	Glu	Asn	Ile	Gln	Gly	Gln	Trp	Met					
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Tyr	Val	His	Met	Arg	Leu	Ile	Leu	Asn	Lys	Pro	Leu	Asp	Tyr	Glu	Glu					
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Thr	Ala	Gln	Ala	Phe	Arg	Val	Arg	Ala	Ile	Asp	Gly	Asp	Thr	Gly	Ile					
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Ile Val Tyr Ile Tyr Glu Gly Ala Glu Asp Gly Glu His Val Val Gln	
895 900 905 910	
ctc ttc gcc agc gat ctg gat aga gat gaa atc tac cac aaa gtg agc	2787
Leu Phe Ala Ser Asp Leu Asp Arg Asp Glu Ile Tyr His Lys Val Ser	
915 920 925	
tac cag atc aac tac gcg atc aac cct cgt ctc cgc gac ttc ttc gag	2835

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Tyr Gln Ile Asn Tyr Ala Ile Asn Pro Arg Leu Arg Asp Phe Phe Glu	
930 935 940	
gta gac ctg gag acc ggc ctg gtg tac gtc aac aac acg gcc ggg gag	2883
Val Asp Leu Glu Thr Gly Leu Val Tyr Val Asn Asn Thr Ala Gly Glu	
945 950 955	
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Lys Leu Asp Arg Asp Gly Asp Glu Pro Thr His Arg Ile Phe Phe Asn	
960 965 970	
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Val Ile Asp Asn Phe Tyr Gly Glu Gly Asp Gly Asn Arg Asn Gln Asp	
975 980 985 990	
gag aca caa gtg tta gtg gtg ctg ttg gac atc aac gac aac tat ccg	3027
Glu Thr Gln Val Leu Val Val Leu Leu Asp Ile Asn Asp Asn Tyr Pro	
995 1000 1005	
gag ctg cct gag ggt ctc tca tgg gat atc tct gag gga ttg cta	3072
Glu Leu Pro Glu Gly Leu Ser Trp Asp Ile Ser Glu Gly Leu Leu	
1010 1015 1020	
cag ggt gtc cgt gta acc cca gat atc ttc gcc ccg gac cgc gac	3117
Gln Gly Val Arg Val Thr Pro Asp Ile Phe Ala Pro Asp Arg Asp	
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gag ccc ggc acc gac aac tcc cgc gtg gcg tac gac atc gtc agc	3162
Glu Pro Gly Thr Asp Asn Ser Arg Val Ala Tyr Asp Ile Val Ser	
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ctc tcg ccc acc gac agg gac atc aca ctt cct caa ctc ttc acc	3207
Leu Ser Pro Thr Asp Arg Asp Ile Thr Leu Pro Gln Leu Phe Thr	
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atg atc acc ata gag aag gac agg ggc atc gac cag act gga gag	3252
Met Ile Thr Ile Glu Lys Asp Arg Gly Ile Asp Gln Thr Gly Glu	
1070 1075 1080	
ctg gag acc gct atg gat tta aga ggc tat tgg ggc act tat gaa	3297
Leu Glu Thr Ala Met Asp Leu Arg Gly Tyr Trp Gly Thr Tyr Glu	
1085 1090 1095	
ata cat gta aag gca tac gac cat gga gta cct caa agg att tcc	3342
Ile His Val Lys Ala Tyr Asp His Gly Val Pro Gln Arg Ile Ser	
1100 1105 1110	
tac gag aag tac ccg cta gtt att aga cct tac aac ttc cac gac	3387
Tyr Glu Lys Tyr Pro Leu Val Ile Arg Pro Tyr Asn Phe His Asp	
1115 1120 1125	
cct gtg ttc gtg ttc cct caa cct gga atg act atc aga ctc gcg	3432
Pro Val Phe Val Phe Pro Gln Pro Gly Met Thr Ile Arg Leu Ala	
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Lys Glu Arg Ala Val Val Asn Gly Val Leu Ala Thr Val Asp Gly	
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Glu Phe Leu Glu Arg Ile Val Ala Thr Asp Glu Asp Gly Leu His	

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Ala Gly Val Val Thr Phe Ser Ile Ser Gly Asp Asp Glu Ala Leu			
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cag tac ttc gac gtg ttt aac gac gga gtg aac ttg ggt gcg ctg			3612
Gln Tyr Phe Asp Val Phe Asn Asp Gly Val Asn Leu Gly Ala Leu			
1190	1195	1200	
acc atc acg cag ctc ttc cct gaa gac ttc cga gag ttt cag gtg			3657
Thr Ile Thr Gln Leu Phe Pro Glu Asp Phe Arg Glu Phe Gln Val			
1205	1210	1215	
acg att cgt gct acg gat ggt ggt acg gag cct ggt cca agg agt			3702
Thr Ile Arg Ala Thr Asp Gly Gly Thr Glu Pro Gly Pro Arg Ser			
1220	1225	1230	
acc gac tgc acg atc acc gta gtg ttt gtg cct acg cag gga gag			3747
Thr Asp Cys Thr Ile Thr Val Val Phe Val Pro Thr Gln Gly Glu			
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cct gtg ttc gaa act agc acc tac acg gtc gct ttt atc gag aaa			3792
Pro Val Phe Glu Thr Ser Thr Tyr Thr Val Ala Phe Ile Glu Lys			
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Asp Ala Gly Met Glu Glu Arg Ala Thr Leu Pro Leu Ala Lys Asp			
1265	1270	1275	
ccg cgt aac ata atg tgt gaa gat gat tgt cac gac acc tat tac			3882
Pro Arg Asn Ile Met Cys Glu Asp Asp Cys His Asp Thr Tyr Tyr			
1280	1285	1290	
agc att gtt gga ggc aac tcg atg ggc cac ttt gcg gtg gac cct			3927
Ser Ile Val Gly Gly Asn Ser Met Gly His Phe Ala Val Asp Pro			
1295	1300	1305	
cag tcc aac gag ctg ttc ctg ctg acg cca ctg gag cgc gcg gag			3972
Gln Ser Asn Glu Leu Phe Leu Leu Thr Pro Leu Glu Arg Ala Glu			
1310	1315	1320	
cag gag acg cac acc ctc atc atc ggc gcc agc gac tcg ccc agc			4017
Gln Glu Thr His Thr Leu Ile Ile Gly Ala Ser Asp Ser Pro Ser			
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cca gcc gcc gtg ctg cag gct tct acc ctc act gtt act gtc aat			4062
Pro Ala Ala Val Leu Gln Ala Ser Thr Leu Thr Val Thr Val Asn			
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Val Arg Glu Ala Asn Pro Arg Pro Val Phe Gln Ser Ala Leu Tyr			
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aca gcc ggc atc tcc acc ctc gac acc atc aac aga ggt ctg cta			4152
Thr Ala Gly Ile Ser Thr Leu Asp Thr Ile Asn Arg Gly Leu Leu			
1370	1375	1380	
acg cta cac gcg act cat tca gaa ggc ttg cct gtg acc tac acg			4197
Thr Leu His Ala Thr His Ser Glu Gly Leu Pro Val Thr Tyr Thr			
1385	1390	1395	



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Leu Val Gln Asp	Ser Met Glu Ala Asp	Ser Thr Leu Gln Ala Val		
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cag gag aca gcc	ttc aac ttg aac cct	cag act gga gtg ctg acc	4287	
Gln Glu Thr Ala	Phe Asn Leu Asn Pro	Gln Thr Gly Val Leu Thr		
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ctc aac ttc cag	ccc aca gca tct atg	cac ggc atg ttt gag ttc	4332	
Leu Asn Phe Gln	Pro Thr Ala Ser Met	His Gly Met Phe Glu Phe		
1430	1435	1440		
gat gtg atg gct	act gat aca gtg gga	gaa acc gcg cgc acc gaa	4377	
Asp Val Met Ala	Thr Asp Thr Val Gly	Glu Thr Ala Arg Thr Glu		
1445	1450	1455		
gtg aag gtg tac	ctg ata tcc gac cgc	aac aga gtg ttc ttc acg	4422	
Val Lys Val Tyr	Leu Ile Ser Asp Arg	Asn Arg Val Phe Phe Thr		
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ttc atg aac acg	ctt gaa gaa gtc gaa	ccg aat gaa gat ttc ata	4467	
Phe Met Asn Thr	Leu Glu Glu Val Glu	Pro Asn Glu Asp Phe Ile		
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gcg gag aca ttt	acc ctg ttc ttc ggc	atg cgg tgc aac atc gac	4512	
Ala Glu Thr Phe	Thr Leu Phe Phe Gly	Met Arg Cys Asn Ile Asp		
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Gln Ala Leu Pro	Ala Ser Asp Pro Ala	Thr Gly Ala Ala Arg Asp		
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Asp Gln Thr Glu	Val Arg Ala His Phe	Ile Arg Asp Asp Leu Pro		
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gtg gcg acc atc	cag aac gcc ctg cag	gag gag aac ctg aac ctg	4692	
Val Ala Thr Ile	Gln Asn Ala Leu Gln	Glu Glu Asn Leu Asn Leu		
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gcc gac ctg ttc	acg ggc gag act ccc	atc ctg ggc ggc gag gcg	4737	
Ala Asp Leu Phe	Thr Gly Glu Thr Pro	Ile Leu Gly Gly Glu Ala		
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Gln Ala Arg Ala	Val Tyr Ala Leu Ala	Ala Val Ala Ala Ala Leu		
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Ala Leu Leu Cys	Val Val Leu Leu Ile	Leu Phe Phe Ile Arg Thr		
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agg gcc ctc aac	cgt cgc ctg gaa gcc	cta tcc atg acc aag tac	4872	
Arg Ala Leu Asn	Arg Arg Leu Glu Ala	Leu Ser Met Thr Lys Tyr		
1610	1615	1620		

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agt tcc caa gac tca gga ctc aac cgc gtg ggt ctg gcg gcg ccg      4917
Ser Ser Gln Asp Ser Gly Leu Asn Arg Val Gly Leu Ala Ala Pro
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ggc acc aac aag cac gcg gtg gag ggc tcc aac ccc atc tgg aac      4962
Gly Thr Asn Lys His Ala Val Glu Gly Ser Asn Pro Ile Trp Asn
      1640                      1645                      1650

gaa act ctt aag gca ccg gac ttt gat gct ctt agc gag cag tcg      5007
Glu Thr Leu Lys Ala Pro Asp Phe Asp Ala Leu Ser Glu Gln Ser
      1655                      1660                      1665

tac gac tcg ggt ctg atc ggc atc gaa gac ttg ccg cag ttc agg      5052
Tyr Asp Ser Gly Leu Ile Gly Ile Glu Asp Leu Pro Gln Phe Arg
      1670                      1675                      1680

aac gac tac ttc ccg cct gac gag gag agc tcc atg cgg gga gtc      5097
Asn Asp Tyr Phe Pro Pro Asp Glu Glu Ser Ser Met Arg Gly Val
      1685                      1690                      1695

gtc aat gaa cac atg cct gga gct aat tca gta gca aac cat aac      5142
Val Asn Glu His Met Pro Gly Ala Asn Ser Val Ala Asn His Asn
      1700                      1705                      1710

aat aac ttc ggg ttc aac gct acc ccc ttc agc cca gag ttc gcg      5187
Asn Asn Phe Gly Phe Asn Ala Thr Pro Phe Ser Pro Glu Phe Ala
      1715                      1720                      1725

aac tcg cag ctc agg aga taa aacattatag tattttttat ataattattat      5238
Asn Ser Gln Leu Arg Arg
      1730

aaagaagtga tataacgcac taaaattttac ctataagtat atattgaagt gtaagatact      5298

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Trp Ser Gln Asn Pro Leu Leu Pro Ala Glu Asp Arg Glu Asp Val Cys
50                      55                      60

Met Asn Ala Phe Asp Pro Ser Ala Leu Asn Pro Val Thr Val Ile Phe
65                      70                      75                      80

Met Glu Glu Glu Ile Glu Gly Asp Val Ala Ile Ala Arg Leu Asn Tyr
85                      90                      95

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Phe His Leu Leu Gly Pro Val Ile Arg Arg Ile Pro Glu Gln Gly Gly  
 115 120 125

Asp Trp His Leu Val Ile Thr Gln Arg Gln Asp Tyr Glu Thr Pro Asn  
 130 135 140

Met Gln Gln Tyr Ile Phe Asn Val Arg Val Glu Asp Glu Pro Gln Glu  
 145 150 155 160

Ala Thr Val Met Leu Ile Ile Val Asn Ile Asp Asp Asn Ala Pro Ile  
 165 170 175

Ile Gln Met Phe Glu Pro Cys Asp Ile Pro Glu His Gly Glu Thr Gly  
 180 185 190

Thr Thr Glu Cys Lys Tyr Val Val Ser Asp Ala Asp Gly Glu Ile Ser  
 195 200 205

Thr Arg Phe Met Thr Phe Gln Ile Glu Ser Asp Arg Asn Asp Glu Glu  
 210 215 220

Tyr Phe Glu Leu Val Arg Glu Asn Ile Gln Gly Gln Trp Met Tyr Val  
 225 230 235 240

His Met Arg Leu Ile Leu Asn Lys Pro Leu Asp Tyr Glu Glu Asn Pro  
 245 250 255

Leu His Leu Phe Arg Val Thr Ala Leu Asp Ser Leu Pro Asn Val His  
 260 265 270

Thr Val Thr Met Met Val Gln Val Glu Asn Ile Glu Ser Arg Pro Pro  
 275 280 285

Arg Trp Met Glu Ile Phe Ala Val Gln Gln Phe Asp Glu Lys Thr Ala  
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Gln Ala Phe Arg Val Arg Ala Ile Asp Gly Asp Thr Gly Ile Asp Lys  
 305 310 315 320

Pro Ile Phe Tyr Arg Ile Glu Thr Glu Glu Ser Glu Lys Asp Leu Phe  
 325 330 335

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Ser Val Glu Thr Ile Gly Ala Gly Arg Glu Gly Ala Trp Phe Lys Val  
340 345 350

Ala Pro Ile Asp Arg Asp Thr Leu Glu Lys Glu Val Phe His Val Ser  
355 360 365

Leu Ile Ala Tyr Lys Tyr Gly Asp Asn Asp Val Glu Gly Ser Pro Ser  
370 375 380

Phe Glu Ser Lys Thr Asp Ile Val Ile Ile Val Asn Asp Val Asn Asp  
385 390 395 400

Gln Ala Pro Val Pro Phe Arg Pro Ser Tyr Tyr Ile Glu Ile Met Glu  
405 410 415

Glu Ala Ala Met Thr Leu Asn Leu Glu Asp Phe Gly Phe His Asp Arg  
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Gly Leu Gly Pro His Ala Gln Tyr Thr Val His Leu Glu Ser Ile Ser  
435 440 445

Pro Ala Gly Ala His Glu Ala Phe Tyr Ile Ala Pro Glu Val Gly Tyr  
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Gln Arg Gln Ser Phe Ile Val Gly Thr Gln Asn His His Met Leu Asp  
465 470 475 480

Phe Glu Val Pro Glu Phe Gln Lys Ile Gln Leu Arg Ala Val Ala Ile  
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Asp Met Asp Asp Pro Arg Trp Val Gly Ile Ala Ile Ile Asn Ile Asn  
500 505 510

Leu Ile Asn Trp Asn Asp Glu Leu Pro Ile Phe Glu His Asp Val Gln  
515 520 525

Thr Val Thr Phe Lys Glu Thr Glu Gly Ala Gly Phe Arg Val Ala Thr  
530 535 540

Val Leu Ala Lys Asp Arg Asp Ile Asp Asp Arg Val Glu His Ser Leu  
545 550 555 560

Met Gly Asn Ala Val Asn Tyr Leu Ser Ile Asp Lys Asp Thr Gly Asp  
565 570 575

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Ile Leu Val Thr Ile Asp Asp Ala Phe Asn Tyr His Arg Gln Asn Glu  
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Leu Phe Val Gln Ile Arg Ala Asp Asp Thr Leu Gly Glu Pro Tyr Asn  
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Thr Asn Thr Ala Gln Leu Val Ile Gln Leu Gln Asp Ile Asn Asn Thr  
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Pro Pro Thr Leu Arg Leu Pro Arg Thr Thr Pro Ser Val Glu Glu Asn  
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Val Pro Asp Gly Phe Val Ile Pro Thr Glu Leu His Ala Thr Asp Pro  
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Asp Thr Thr Ala Glu Leu Arg Phe Ser Ile Asp Trp Asp Thr Ser Tyr  
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Ala Thr Lys Gln Gly Arg Asp Ala Asp Ala Glu Glu Phe Val Asn Cys  
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Ile Glu Ile Glu Thr Val Tyr Pro Asn Leu Asn Asp Arg Gly Thr Ala  
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Tyr Glu Met Phe Glu Val Leu Tyr Leu Thr Val Arg Val Thr Asp Leu  
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Asn Thr Val Ile Gly Asp Asp Tyr Asp Ile Ser Thr Phe Thr Ile Ile  
 740 745 750

Ile Ile Asp Met Asn Asp Asn Pro Pro Leu Trp Val Glu Gly Thr Leu  
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Thr Gln Glu Phe Arg Val Arg Glu Val Ala Ala Ser Gly Val Val Ile  
 770 775 780

Gly Ser Val Leu Ala Thr Asp Ile Asp Gly Pro Leu Tyr Asn Gln Val  
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Arg Tyr Thr Ile Thr Pro Arg Leu Asp Thr Pro Glu Asp Leu Val Glu  
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Ile Asp Phe Asn Ser Gly Gln Ile Ser Val Lys Lys His Gln Ala Ile

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820

825

830

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Ser Asp Lys Cys Asp Leu Leu Ser Val Asp Val Cys Pro Pro Asp Pro 850  
850 855 860

Asn Tyr Phe Asn Thr Pro Gly Asp Ile Thr Ile His Ile Thr Asp Thr 865  
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Asn Asn Arg Val Pro Arg Val Glu Glu Asp Lys Phe Glu Glu Ile Val 885  
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Tyr Ile Tyr Glu Gly Ala Glu Asp Gly Glu His Val Val Gln Leu Phe 900  
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Ala Ser Asp Leu Asp Arg Asp Glu Ile Tyr His Lys Val Ser Tyr Gln 915  
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Ile Asn Tyr Ala Ile Asn Pro Arg Leu Arg Asp Phe Phe Glu Val Asp 930  
930 935 940

Leu Glu Thr Gly Leu Val Tyr Val Asn Asn Thr Ala Gly Glu Lys Leu 945  
945 950 955 960

Asp Arg Asp Gly Asp Glu Pro Thr His Arg Ile Phe Phe Asn Val Ile 965  
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Asp Asn Phe Tyr Gly Glu Gly Asp Gly Asn Arg Asn Gln Asp Glu Thr 980  
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Gln Val Leu Val Val Leu Leu Asp Ile Asn Asp Asn Tyr Pro Glu Leu 995  
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Pro Glu Gly Leu Ser Trp Asp Ile Ser Glu Gly Leu Leu Gln Gly 1010  
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Pro Thr Asp Arg Asp Ile Thr Leu Pro Gln Leu Phe Thr Met Ile 1055  
1055 1060 1065

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Val Lys Ala Tyr Asp His Gly Val Pro Gln Arg Ile Ser Tyr Glu  
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Lys Tyr Pro Leu Val Ile Arg Pro Tyr Asn Phe His Asp Pro Val  
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Thr His Thr Leu Ile Ile Gly Ala Ser Asp Ser Pro Ser Pro Ala  
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Gly Ile Ser Thr Leu Asp Thr Ile Asn Arg Gly Leu Leu Thr Leu  
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His Ala Thr His Ser Glu Gly Leu Pro Val Thr Tyr Thr Leu Val  
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Arg Ala 1580	Val Tyr Ala Leu 1585	Ala 1585	Ala Val Ala Ala 1590	Ala 1590	Leu Ala Leu
Leu Cys 1595	Val Val Leu Leu 1600	Ile 1600	Leu Phe Phe Ile 1605	Arg 1605	Thr Arg Ala
Leu Asn 1610	Arg Arg Leu Glu 1615	Ala 1615	Leu Ser Met Thr 1620	Lys 1620	Tyr Ser Ser
Gln Asp 1625	Ser Gly Leu Asn 1630	Arg 1630	Val Gly Leu Ala 1635	Ala 1635	Pro Gly Thr
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Ser Gly 1670	Leu Ile Gly Ile 1675	Glu 1675	Asp Leu Pro Gln 1680	Phe 1680	Arg Asn Asp
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Glu His 1700	Met Pro Gly Ala 1705	Asn 1705	Ser Val Ala Asn 1710	His 1710	Asn Asn Asn
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(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
26 September 2002 (26.09.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
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60/276,180 15 March 2001 (15.03.2001) US
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:  
— with international search report
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
19 December 2002
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



WO 02/074079 A3

(54) Title: POLYNUCLEOTIDE ENCODING A GENE CONFERRING RESISTANCE TO BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS TOX-INS

(57) Abstract: Nucleic acid (DNA) probes are provided which will specifically identify a gene for resistance of Bt in insect populations. Sequences are identified associated with the onset of resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis* toxins. The sequences are used as probes to monitor the presence of acquired insect resistance associated with transgenic crops.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/07872

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : C12Q 1/68; C12P 19/34; C07H 21/04

US CL : 435/6, 91.2; 536/23.1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/6, 91.2; 536/23.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
Please See Continuation Sheet**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P	GAHAN et al. Identification of a gene associated with Bt resistance in <i>Heliothis virescens</i> . Science. 03 August 2001, Vol. 293, No. 5531, pages 857-860, see entire document, especially page 859.	15
A	US 5,693,491 A (BULLA et al) 02 December 1997 (02.12.1997), see entire reference, especially column 3, line 39-column 4, line 25.	15
A, P	NAGARAJU, J. Identification of a gene associated with Bt resistance in the lepidopteran pest, <i>Heliothis virescens</i> and its implications in Bt transgenic-based pest control. Current Science. 10 October 2001, Vol. 81, No. 7, pages 746-747, see entire reference.	15



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	
* "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

01 August 2002 (01.08.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 SEP 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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Valerie Bell-Hammon  
Diana B. Johannsen

Telephone No. 703/308-0196

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US02/07872

## Continuation of Box I Reason 2:

The computer readable form of the Sequence Listing contained errors. No meaningful search of claims 1-14 could be conducted without a sequence search. It is noted that claim 15 was searched to the extent possible using a text search (no sequence search could be conducted).

## Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

USPT, DWPI, Agricola, Medline, Biosis, Embase, CAPlus, Lifesci, Scisearch

search terms: HevCaLP, Btr4, Btr1, cadherin, BT, B. thuringiensis, resistan####; inventors' names; Nagaraju, J.

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